

MARITIME TRADES COUNCIL

OF GREATER BOSTON AND NEW ENGLAND AFL-CIO



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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 26, 2011

M.T.D. Affiliates

Boston Plasters & Cement Masons
Local #534

Building & Construction Trades Council
of the Metropolitan District

International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers
Local #103

International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers
Local #223

International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers
Local #99

International Brotherhood of
Firemen & Oilers
Local #3, SEIU

International Longshoremen's Association

International Organization of
Master, Mates & Pilots

International Union of Elevator
Constructors Local #4

International Union of
Operating Engineers
Local #4 & It's Branches

Massachusetts AFL-CIO

National Maritime Union of America, SIUNA

Painters & Allied Trades
District Council #35

Pile Drivers Local Union #56

Pipefitter's Association
Local Union #537, U.A.

Seafarers International Union of
North America, AFL-CIO

American Maritime Officers

Sheet Metal Workers
International Association
Local Union #17

United Brotherhood of Carpenters
and Joiners Millwright Local #1121

International Association of Ironworkers Local #7

Marine Engineers Beneficial Association

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

With regard to the 11-65 proceeding regarding AT&T's application to merge with T-Mobile, the Maritime Trades Council of Greater Boston and New England endorses the transaction and would like to address the Commission with these opinions.

As an organization dedicated to supporting the collective voice of working families, we value AT&T's commitment to organized labor. Among all wireless communications companies in the US, AT&T is the only one with a unionized workforce. And since 1999 that workforce has grown by tens of thousands as a result of previous mergers within the wireless communications industry.

T-Mobile, on the other hand, has blocked efforts by its 20,000 member workforce to unionize. If AT&T is able to accomplish this merger, it will allow T-Mobile's employees to vote for the right to seek collective bargaining and enjoy greater job security, wages and benefits.

This merger will not just benefit T-Mobile's workers, it will also help grow the broader economy. For our members, communication is critically necessary to safely and effectively execute our jobs, so we certainly appreciate the need to upgrade coverage and increase speed, which this transaction will accomplish.

To accomplish the planned network expansion, AT&T is planning to spend an additional \$8 billion to upgrade its network, meaning the economy would benefit both from immediate job creation and the positive impact of greater broadband access for businesses in Massachusetts and throughout the country.